GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3697
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
TIDAL ENERGY
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to harness tidal energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made thereon;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `progress made in this respect in Norway` appearing in the Times of the India dated November 8, 2002;

(d) if so, whether similar progress has been achieved; and

(e) if not, steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat and Delta of Ganga in Sundarbans area of West Bengal are three potential sites in the country for tidal power generation. A techno-economic feasibility report was prepared for a 900 MW capacity tidal power plant by CEA in 1987. But the project could not be taken up due to its high installation cost. The Ministry, after carrying out a feasibility study, have got prepared a detailed project report for a 3 MW capacity tidal power plant proposed to be set up at Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans area of West Bengal. Based on the recommendations of the detailed project report, the proposal for the country`s first tidal power plant is being processed by the Ministry. The experience gained in this project would be utilized in developing other potential sites for tidal power generation in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e): The newsitem under reference is on harnessing ocean energy through water current turbine technology by revolving the blades of a windmill- like turbine, standing on the sea-bed. This technology is presently in the experimental stage. The Ministry is, however, proposing to harness ocean energy through the tidal route using barrage technology, as this technology has been found to be successful in France, Canada, Russia and China.